

## Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8617

S E C R E T DACCA 5425

NODIS

EO 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: KOR, IN, BG

SUBJ: STATUS REPORT FROM PRESIDENT'S PRINCIPAL SECRETARY

REF: STATE'S 265069 ; DACCA'S 5417

SUMMARY: CHASHI HAS PROVIDED RESPONSE TO OUR STATEMENT TO HIM YESTERDAY

(REFTELS) IN WHICH HE HAS INDICATED AGREEMENT WITH OUR ASSESSMENT AND INFORMED US OF STEPS THEY HAVE TAKEN TO REASSURE THE INDIANS, PARTICULARLY ABOUT THE HINDU MINORITIES. HE HAS OFFERED A MODERATELY ENCOURAGINGESTIMATE OF IMPROVING SITUATION IN DACCA TODAY, SUGGESTING THAT REPORTS WE HAVE RECEIVED ABOUT LOWER MILITARY RANKS BEING OUT OF CONTROL WERE TRUER YESTERDAY THAN TODAY. FINALLY, HE HAS ADVISED US OF INTENTION TO DISCUSS BDG'S CONCERN ABOUT CONTINUING ATTACKS ON BANGLADESH RIFLES GUARD POST ON INDIAN BORDER IN MYMENSIGH DISTRICT WITH INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER THIS AFTERNOON. END SUMMARY

1. WHEN I CALLED CHASHI AT 1345 TODAY (NOVEMBER 9) FOR A STATUS REPORT ON SITUATION HERE, HE FIRST GAVE ME FOLLOWING RESPONSE TO STATEMENT I HAD PROVIDED HIM YESTERDAY IN REPLY TO THEIR REQUEST FOR OUR SUPPORT: "WE DEEPLY APPRECIATE THE ACTIONS YOU HAVE TAKEN. WE AGREE WITH YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE STEPS THAT NEED TO BE TAKEN FOR STABILIZING THE SITUATION BOTH INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY. EFFECTIVELY, WE HAVE TAKEN ACTIONS REGARDING FOREIGN NATIONALS AND HINDU MINORITIES. WE ARE INFORMING THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE STEPS TAKEN AND ALSO THE INDIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY THROUGH OUR HIGH COMMISSION. THESE STEPS ARE, FIRST, WE HAVE INCREASED SECURITY IN

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AREAS WHERE MINORITIES LIVE, THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AS WELL AS IN

DACCA, AND WE HAVE NO REPORTS OF ANY INCIDENT WHICH WOULD AFFECT COMMUNAL HARMONY. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN GLAD TO SEE THAT OUR SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT ABOUT THE FACT THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO THREAT TO FOREIGN NATIONALS HERE HAS BEEN CARRIED BY ALL-INDIA RADIO. WE HAVE ALSO SENT A REPRESENTATIVE OF GENERAL ZIAUR RAHMAN TO THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIGKER IMMEDIATELY AFTER ZIA HAD ANNOUNCED HIS ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE TEMPORARILY AS CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR TO REASSURE THEM THAT THE EVENTS WERE ENTIRELY INTERNAL AND SHOULD NOT IN ANY WAY

AFFECT OUR GOOD RELATIONS WITH OUR GREAT NEIGHBOR. THE TELEPHONES OF SOME OF THE STAFF MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION, WHICH HAD BEEN OUT OF ORDER, WERE ESPECIALLY RESTORED IN A SPECIAL EFFECT ON THEIR BEHALF, WHILE MANY OF OUR OWN PHONES REMAIN OUT OF ORDER."

2. I SAID I WAS PLEASED TO KNOW THAT THEY AGREED WITH OUR ASSESSMENT AND PARTICULARLY TO KNOW OF THE STEPS THEY HAD TAKEN, WHICH SHOULD BE MOST HELPFUL. I INFORMED HIM THAT WE HAD SPOKEN TO THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT AT A HIGH LEVEL YESTERDAY ABOUT THE DESIRABILITY OF AVOIDING STATEMENTS WHICH MIGHT HAVE HARMFUL EFFECT IN PRESENT EMOTIONAL ATMOSPHERE AND I THOUGHT THIS POINT HAD BEEN UNDERSTOOD. CHASHI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THIS.

3. AS FOR PRESENT INTERNAL SITUATION, CHASHI SAID IT REMAINED THE SAME. THE PEOPLE IN THE ARMY WHO HAD COME OUT YESTERDAY HAD FOR THE MOST PART GONE BACK TO THEIR UNITS AND MORE WERE RETURNING. THE CURFEW LAST NIGHT HAD BEEN USED TO CHECK THOSE MILITARY PEOPLE WHO HAD NOT RETURNED. APART FROM POLITICS, THERE WAS A LOT OF PURELY PERSONAL MISCHIEF AND THE SETTling OF OLD SCORES, RESULTING IN A LOT OF LOCAL LAW AND ORDER PROBLEMS. I SAID THIS WAS WHAT HAD PROMPTED MY CALL AS I HAD BEGUN TO RECEIVE REPORTS THAT THE LOWER RANKS MIGHT BE OUT OF CONTROL AND THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF OFFICERS WERE BEING HELD. CHASHI INTERRUPTED TO SAY THAT WHAT I WAS DESCRIBING HAD APPLIED TO YESTERDAY. AS OF THIS MORNING, HE SAID, THE SITUATION WAS RETURNING TO NORMAL. THE MILITARY CHIEFS HAD BEEN GOING AROUND FROM GROUP TO GROUP AND WERE FINDING REASSURING RESULTS. HE THOUGHT THE SITUATION WAS WELL UNDER CONTROL NOW BUT THEY WOULD BE LOOKING AT IT AGAIN THIS EVENING.

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4. CHASHI ADDED THAT THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER SAMAR SEN, WAS CALLING ON HIM THIS AFTERNOON AND HE WOULD TELL SEN THAT THEY WERE A LITTLE DISTURBED ABOUT FIRING WHICH HAD BEEN GOING ON AGAINST ONE OF THEIR BANGLADESH RIFLES GUARD POST AT HALUAGHAT IN MYMENSINGH DISTRICT FOR A FEW DAYS. THIS FIRING HAD BEEN INTENSIFIED IN THE LAST DAY OR TWO; THEY HOPED IT WAS A LOCAL MATTER BUT THEY WOULD BRING IT TO SEN'S NOTICE, INDICATING THAT ANY SUCH INTENSIFICATION WAS CONTRARY TO THE EFFORTS WHICH BEING MADE TO

BRING ABOUT STABILITY. CHASHI ADDED THAT THERE WERE ALSO INCIDENTS OF SABOTAGE BUT THEY WERE NOT MAJOR.

5. I TOLD CHASHI THAT I HOPED HE WOULD CONTINUE TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH ME WHILE THE SITUATION REMAINED UNEASY AND HE SAID THEY WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THEIR INFORMATION WITH US AS WE ALSO SHARED THE SAME GOAL OF RESTORING STABILITY TO THE COUNTRY.

6. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH PASS TO NEW DELHI AND ISLAMABAD.  
BOSTER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION, PROGRESS REPORTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, CAT-B  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 NOV 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X3  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION NODS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 265069, 75 DACCA 5417  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <24 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** STATUS REPORT FROM PRESIDENT'S PRINCIPAL SECRETARY  
**TAGS:** PEPR, PINT, PINS, PFOR, US, PK, IN, BG, (CHASHI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006